

From: "Hansen, Peter" <Peter.Hansen@leg.state.nh.us>

Date: April 18, 2014 at 10:24:15 PM EDT

To: "amy.ignatius@puc.nh.gov" <amy.ignatius@puc.nh.gov>, "robert.scott@puc.nh.gov" <robert.scott@puc.nh.gov>, "martin.honigberg@puc.nh.gov" <martin.honigberg@puc.nh.gov>

Commissioners,

Below an article which highlights the concerns associated with the potential divestiture of PSNH generating capability. Let us not ignore the ramifications of this very policy - divestiture - when the Enron scandal finally became exposed. Billions of dollars in unjustified charges, market manipulation, and energy prices which brought the consumer to its knees. Oversight had disappeared and the consumer ignored. The attached article suggests that the identical forces in play with Enron are apparently deeply imbedded in today's New England power providers as well.

NH rate payers were blessed with millions of dollars in savings and suffered no capacity driven shutdowns or brown-outs this past winter due solely to the diverse generating capacity of PSNH. This benefit should not be cast aside for the promises of renewable sources barely developed and always subsidized nor would it be wise as proven this past winter to rely on natural gas. Gas may be cheaper and it may be coming but has yet to arrive and may never be available in sufficient volume to insure lowest prices - perhaps by design! In addition as the export of cheap US natural gas becomes prevalent low domestic pricing and availability are far from assured as we all understand energy is not a local or even domestic commodity.

Today NH PUC has firm oversight of the existing PSNH generating capacity, once divested it will no longer have that advantage. NH will instantly become completely dependent on sources much further from the reach of NH PUC. For these reasons and the well-being of NH citizens now and in the future I urge you to be unyielding to the pressures of various special interest groups and remain as you are charged totally committed to the best interests of our citizens and businesses. Divestiture is by far the least advantageous and cost effective strategy available to the PUC.

Thank You for your time and consideration of my convictions.

Rep. Peter T. Hansen
Hillsborough District 22
Amherst

Plant owner's motives questioned

By Erin Ailworth

| Globe Staff April 14, 2014

A national consumer advocacy group has asked federal regulators to investigate the planned closing of the Brayton Point power plant, alleging that the private equity firm that owns the Somerset facility is manipulating the New England electricity market to make tens of millions of dollars.

In documents filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Monday, Public Citizen alleged Energy Capital Partners knew that closing Brayton Point would push up the price generators of electricity are paid by ISO New England, the power grid operator.

ISO New England pays utilities to commit to providing electricity in future years to ensure the region has sufficient power.

With Brayton Point scheduled to close in 2017, ISO New England recently paid energy generators \$2 billion more for making commitments to provide energy to the region that year, according to the FERC filing.

As a result, Public Citizen claimed, five other plants owned by Energy Capital Partners reaped an extra \$100 million.

"We see this as an intentional move to withhold capacity so that their other operating units can make money," said Tyson Slocum, director of Public Citizen's energy program. An Energy Capital Partners spokesman had no comment.

The private equity firm has offices in California and New Jersey.

Lacey Girard, a spokeswoman for ISO New England, said that organization is aware of Public Citizen's filing, but had no additional comment on the issue.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could not be reached for comment on Monday.

Erin Ailworth can be reached at erin.ailworth@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter [@ailworth](https://twitter.com/ailworth).